(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any study before arriving at such a decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVU KKARASAR): (a) to (e) Initiatives taken by the Government to address these issues in a larger perspective include constitution of five Inter Ministerial Working Groups on Information Technology Security and Setting up of Indian Computer Emergency ResponseTeam (CERT-IN).

Announcement of Revised Telecom Tariff

198. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether theTRAI has announced the revised basic telecom tariff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of basic telephone connections in the country both in rural and urban sectors, State-wise, alongwith the number of connections by both public and private sector providers;

(d) whether the proposed increase in the tariff makes it unaffordable for the lower income sections of the society;

(e) if so, the reasons for this decision; and

(f) whether Government are considering to review their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of changes in respect of the major items of basic telecom tariff effective from 1.4.2003 are given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The information as on 30th September, 2002 is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) No, Sir. As compared with the existing TRAI tariffs, the tariffs now announced do not propose any increase in the rental for rural sbuscribers covered by exchange capacities up to 29,999 lines. No increase inrentals has been made for senior citizens in rural and urban areas either. Even in the case of other subscribers, the rental increase is marginal.

(e) and (f) As per the TRAI Act 1997, as amended in 2000, the power of tariff fixation for telecom services lies only with TRAI. The tariffs announced by TRAI are on account of a rationalization exercise arrived at bringing tariffs closer to costs. The new tariffs prescribed by TRAI constitute a standard tariff package, within whose ceilings and floors service providers can fix their own tariffs.

Statement-I

Changes in respect of major items of basic telecom tariff

A. Rural Rentals (Monthly in Rupees)

Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines)	Existing TRAI Ceiling	Proposed by TRAI	
		Sr. Citizen	Others
Upto 999	70	70	70
1000-29,999	120	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	250	280

B. Urban Rentals (Monthly in Rupees)

Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines)	Existing TRAI Ceiling	Proposed by TRAI Sr. Citizen	Residential Subscribers
Upto 29,999	120	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	250	280

C. Number of Free Calls (Per Month)

	Existing TRAI	Prosed by TRAI
Rural	75	50
Urban	60	30

D. Call Charges (In Rupees per metered call)

Existing TRAI slabs		Proposed by TRAI	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
0-75 Free	0-60 Free	0-50 Free	0-30 Free
76-500 @.80	61-500 @.80	51-300 @.80	31-300 @1.00
>500 @1.20	>500 21.20	>300 @1.20	>300 @1.20

E. Pulse Rate (in Seconds)

Existing		Proposed by TRAI	
Calls to all networks	180	Calls to basic services network	120
		Calls to cellular (Metro area)	90
		Calls to cellular (Cricle area)	60

Statement-II

Details of basic telephone connections in the country as on 30-9-2002

Service Provider Public Sector	Name of the Circle/Service Area	No. of Basic Telephone Connections As on 30th September, 2002		
		Urban	Rural	Total
BSNL	A & N	16371	17626	33997
BSNL	AP	2102945	1055293	3158238
BSNL	ASSAM	350973	100752	451725
BSNL	BIHAR	520011	270373	790384
BSNL	CALCUTTA	1497897	0	1497897
BSNL	CHATTISGARH	215406	47889	263295
BSNL	CHENNAI	1052478	0	1052478
BSNL	GUJARAT	2163862	718066	2881928
BSNL	HARYANA	691417	324622	1016039
BSNL	HP	165376	280162	445538
BSNL	J & K	218762	21842	240604
BSNL	JHARKHAND	333656	55022	388678
BSNL	KARNATAKA	1876649	788583	2665232
BSNL	KERALA	1091850	1691681	2783531
BSNL	MP	959383	225176	1184559
BSNL	MAHARASHTRA excluding MUMBAI	2598487	1112841	3711328
BSNL	NORTH EAST-I	129527	47654	177181
BSNL	NORTH EAST-II	95120	31592	126712
BSNL	ORISSA	438172	229609	667781
BSNL	PUNJAB	1260214	711777	1971991
BSNL	RAJASTHAN	1103795	521446	1625241
BSNL	TAMIL NADU	2191261	631934	2823195
BSNL	UP (EAST)	1252856	400437	1653293
BSNL	UP (WEST)	10441153	134045	10575198
BSNL	UTTRANCHAL	253078	67746	320824

Service Provider Public Sector	Name of the Circle/Service Area	No. of Basic Telephone Connections As on 30th September, 2002		
		Urban	Rural	Total
BSNL	WEST BENGAL	574255	455153	1029408
BSNL	DELHI	2117704	0	2117704
BSNL	MUMBAI	2399973	0	2399973
Private Operators				
BSNL	DELHI	19778	0	19778
BSNL	HARYANA	22097	0	22097
BSNL	MP	183094	348	183442
BSNL	KARNATAKA	12092	0	12092
BSNL	TAMILNADU	22549	0	22549
HFCL (Himachal Futurist)	PUNJAB	100803	705	101508
HUGHES	MAHARASHTRA including MUMBAI	185909	720	186629
RTPL (Reliance)	GUJARAT	0	160	160
STL (Shyam Telecom)	RAJASTHAN	44625	754	45379
TTL (Tata tele)	AP	213761	0	213761

Chargesheet to District Managers of Telecommunication Circles

†199. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Telecom managers of circles in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been chargesheeted for having been found guilty during the last six months;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.